

CAPSULE SUMMARY

BA-0374

Levi Price House

707 E. Belfast Road

Sparks, Baltimore County

1797

Private

The Federal style Levi Price House was constructed in 1797 and dates to a late 18th to early 19th century period of settlement in the area around Philopolis and Sparks. The village of Philopolis Post Office, was already beginning to thrive by the mid-19th century. In addition to the boys' boarding school, there were numerous dwellings, a public schoolhouse, gristmill and a general store in the village. Philopolis continued to grow rapidly, and by 1877, a tavern and two blacksmiths shops were established there. By 1915, the village's name had fallen out of general use. As early as 1850, the village of Sparks and the road that connected it to Philopolis, were non-existent. The land that later became the community, lying east of the Gunpowder Falls, was traversed only by a few farms. By 1877, Sparks Road had been constructed from York Road in Philopolis to its terminus at Carroll Road. The village formed around the Sparks station along the Northern Central Railroad, and included only a school and a few dwellings along Sparks Road. By 1915, a post office was established in the village. The Sparks State Bank was erected in 1916. By the mid-20th century, the village of Sparks had declined. The area has come to encompass the neighboring community of Philopolis.

The Levi Price House is a two-and-a-half-story building of solid coursed rubble stone construction with a side gable roof clad in wood shingles and one interior gable end coursed rubble stone chimney. The three-bay-wide façade fronts southeast on the southwest side of the road and is ornamented with a modest molded wood cornice. Circa 1940, a two-story wing with a stone first story and a weatherboard-clad wood frame second story was constructed on the northeast elevation of the main block. An interior chimney of coursed rubble stone rises from the northeast gable end of the wing. At that time, a one-story garage of stone was placed on the northeast elevation of the two-story wing. The main block features a side entry with a sash-and-paneled single-leaf door with a three-light transom and two 9/6 windows on the first story. The entry and one window are sheltered by a circa 1940 porch that is three bays wide with a shed roof supported by square wood posts. Three 6/6 windows pierce the second story. Three historic dependencies, including a springhouse, smokehouse, and carriage shed, are associated with the dwelling. A circa 1990 in-ground swimming pool is also located on the property.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. BA-0374

1. Name of Property

(indicate preferred name)

historic Levi Price House (preferred)

other Carroll House

2. Location

street and number 707 E. Belfast Road not for publication

city, town Sparks vicinity

county Baltimore County

3. Owner of Property

(give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Gregory B. Bulkley

street and number 707 Belfast Road telephone Not Available

city, town Sparks state MD zip code 21152

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore County Courthouse liber 6439 folio 153

city, town Towson tax map 34 tax parcel 183 tax ID number 0803000575

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
☐ Other:

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	Contributing
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> defense	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> domestic	Contributing
		<input type="checkbox"/> education	Noncontributing
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	Contributing
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	Noncontributing
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	Contributing
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	Noncontributing
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	Contributing
		<input type="checkbox"/> religion	Noncontributing
		<input type="checkbox"/> social	Contributing
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	Noncontributing
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	Contributing
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	Noncontributing
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	Contributing
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	Noncontributing
			Total
			Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory
			1

7. Description

Inventory No. BA-0374

Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Constructed in 1797, the Levi Price House is a two-and-a-half-story building of solid coursed rubble stone construction with a side gable roof clad in wood shingles and one interior gable end coursed rubble stone chimney. The three-bay-wide façade fronts southeast on the southwest side of the road and is ornamented with a modest molded wood cornice. Circa 1940, a two-story wing with a stone first story and a weatherboard-clad wood frame second story was constructed on the northeast elevation of the main block. An interior chimney of coursed rubble stone rises from the northeast gable end of the wing. At that time, a one-story garage of stone was placed on the northeast elevation of the two-story wing. The main block features a side entry with a sash-and-paneled single-leaf door with a three-light transom and two 9/6 windows on the first story. The entry and one window are sheltered by a circa 1940 porch that is three bays wide with a shed roof supported by square wood posts. Three 6/6 windows pierce the second story.

Three historic dependencies are associated with the dwelling. The circa 1800 springhouse is a one-story, one-bay-square structure of solid random rubble stone construction with a wood-shingled front gable roof and a central flush-vertical-board single-leaf door with a square-edged wood surround.

The smokehouse, which dates to circa 1800, is a one-story, one-bay-square wood frame structure clad in board-and-batten siding with a front gable roof clad in wood shingles. The building sits on a parged stone foundation. One offset board-and-batten divided single-leaf door pierces the façade. The roof features exposed rafter tails and a zigzag motif to the wood bargeboard.

The wood frame structural system of the one-story carriage shed is clad in board-and-batten siding and features a side gable roof clad in wood shingles and a concrete-parged foundation. The building, which dates to circa 1910, is pierced by three flush-vertical-board double-leaf wood doors and surmounted by a square cupola with a hipped roof clad in wood shingles. The sides of the cupola are ventilated.

A circa 1990 in-ground swimming pool is also located on the property. The square structure has a stone surround.

8. Significance

Inventory No. BA-0374

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history	
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

Specific dates	1797-present	Architect/Builder	Unknown
Construction dates	1797, 1940 ca.		

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

The Federal style Levi Price House was constructed in 1797 and dates to a late 18th to early 19th century period of settlement in the area around Philopolis and Sparks. The village of Philopolis Post Office, was already beginning to thrive by the mid-19th century. In addition to the boys' boarding school, there were numerous dwellings, a public schoolhouse, gristmill and a general store in the village.¹ Philopolis continued to grow rapidly, and by 1877, a tavern and two blacksmiths shops were established there.² By 1915, the village's name had fallen out of general use.³ As early as 1850, the village of Sparks and the road that connected it to Philopolis, were non-existent. The land that later became the community, lying east of the Gunpowder Falls, was traversed only by a few farms.⁴ By 1877, Sparks Road had been constructed from York Road in Philopolis to its terminus at Carroll Road. The village formed around the Sparks station along the Northern Central Railroad, and included only a school and a few dwellings along Sparks Road.⁵ By 1915, a post office was established in the village.⁶ The Sparks State Bank was erected in 1916.⁷ By the mid-20th century, the village of Sparks had declined. The area has come to encompass the neighboring community of Philopolis.

The Federal style dominated American architecture from 1790 to 1830 as an updated architectural style for the new republic. High-style Federal buildings are decorated with carved swags and classical motifs on the exterior as well as the interior. Federal interiors often juxtapose curvilinear and rectilinear spaces and lines. The architecture of the Levi Price House, however, is less ornate, suggesting a more modest interpretation of the popular style.⁸

¹ J.C. Sidney, *Map of the City and County of Baltimore, Maryland, from Original Surveys* (Baltimore, MD: James M. Stephens, 1850).

² *Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland* (Philadelphia, PA: G. M. Hopkins, 1877).

³ *Map of Baltimore County* (Philadelphia, PA: G. W. Bromley, 1915).

⁴ J.C. Sidney, *Map of the City and County of Baltimore, Maryland, from Original Surveys* (Baltimore, MD: James M. Stephens, 1850).

⁵ *Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland* (Philadelphia, PA: G. M. Hopkins, 1877).

⁶ *Map of Baltimore County* (Philadelphia, PA: G. W. Bromley, 1915).

⁷ Baltimore County Historic Inventory.

⁸ Rachel Carley, *The Visual Dictionary of American Domestic Architecture* (New York, NY: Henry Holt and Company, 1994), p. 91.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. BA-0374

- Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland.* Philadelphia, PA: G. M. Hopkins, 1877.
Baltimore County Historic Inventory.
Brooks, Neal A. and Eric G. Rockel. *A History of Baltimore County.* Towson, MD: Friends of the Towson Library, Inc., 1979.
Map of Baltimore County. Philadelphia, PA: G. W. Bromley, 1915.
Scharf, J. Thomas. *History of Baltimore City and County From the Earliest Period to the Present Day: Including Biographical Sketches of Their Representative Men.* Philadelphia, PA: Louis H. Everts, 1881. Reprinted by Higginson Book Company, Salem, MA.
Sidney, J. C. *Map of the City and County of Baltimore, Maryland, from Original Surveys.* Baltimore, MD: James M. Stephens, 1850.

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of surveyed property	<u>.50 Acre</u>	
Acreege of historical setting	<u>Unknown</u>	
Quadrangle name	<u>Hereford</u>	Quadrangle scale: <u>1:24,000</u>

Verbal boundary description and justification

Since its construction in 1797, the Levi Price House has been associated with the 2.94 acres of land known as tax parcel 183 of map 34 located in the Baltimore County Tax Assessor's office.

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	A. McDonald and A. Didden, Architectural Historians		
organization	EHT Tracerics, Incorporated	date	May 29, 2001
street & number	1121 5th Street NW	telephone	202.393.1199
city or town	Washington	state	DC

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600

DF 0129

(PHOENIX)
5663 11 SE

BA-0415
621 E BELFAST ROAD
SPARKS, BALTIMORE COUNTY

BA-0414
600 E BELFAST ROAD
SPARKS
BALTIMORE COUNTY

BA-0374
707 E BELFAST ROAD
SPARKS, BALTIMORE COUNTY

BA-0375
15112 YORK ROAD
SPARKS, BALTIMORE COUNTY

BA-0409
1100 SPARKS ROAD
SPARKS, BALTIMORE COUNTY

BA-0612

BA-2462
1207 SPARKS ROAD

BA-0376
15010 YORK ROAD
SPARKS, BALTIMORE COUNTY

BA-1716
14825 YORK ROAD

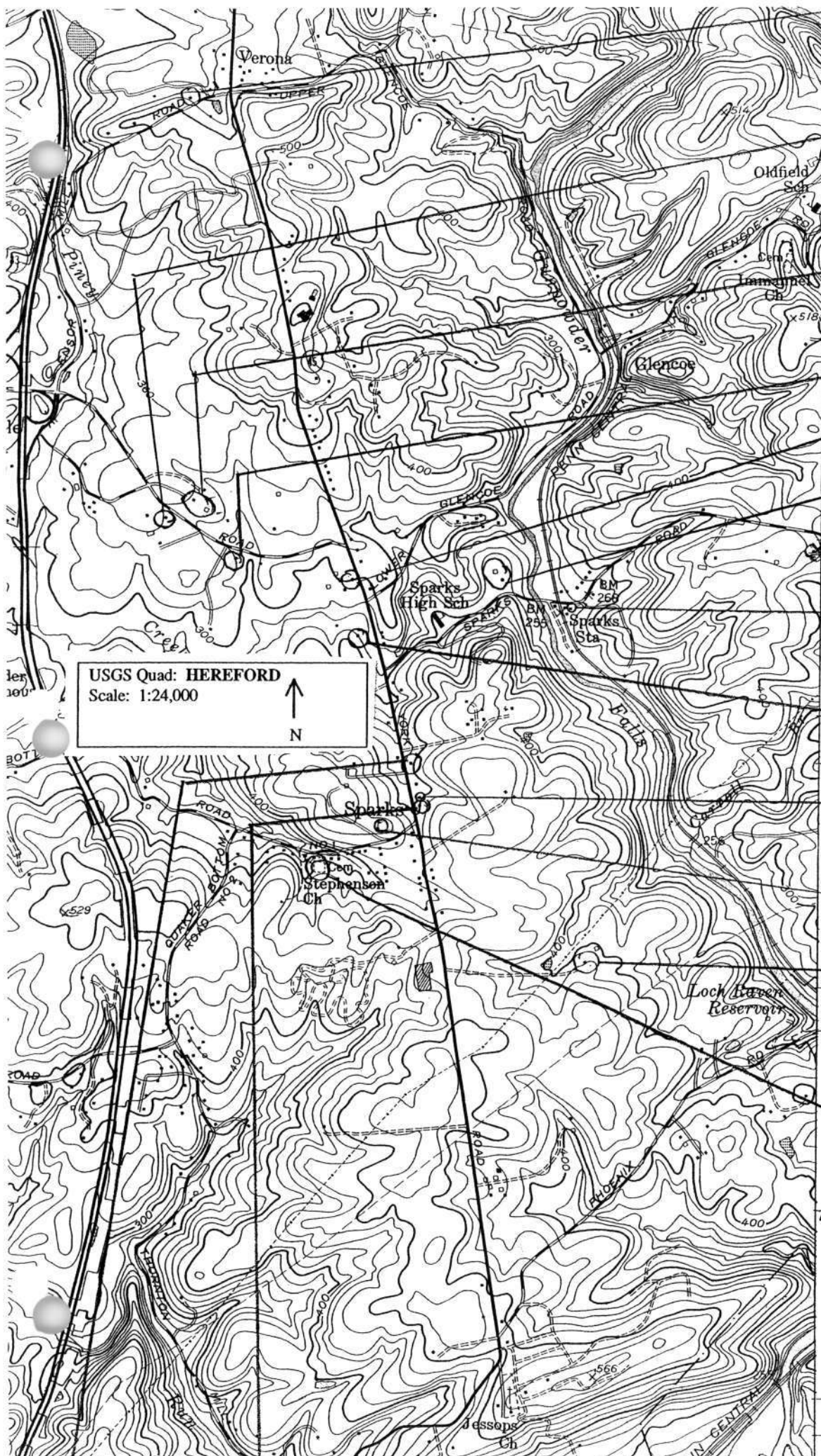
BA-0428
7 STODDARD COURT

BA 266
14611 YORK ROAD

BA-0427
811 QUAKER BOTTOM ROAD
SPARKS, BALTIMORE COUNTY

4375000m.N.

8 MI.



USGS Quad: HEREFORD
Scale: 1:24,000





BA-0374

707 E BELFAST ROAD, SPARKS

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

4/2001

MD SHPO

S CORNER

1 of 4



BA-0374

707 E BELFAST ROAD, SPARKS

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

4/2001

MD SHPO

NW ELEVATION

2 of 4



BA-0374

707 E BELFAST ROAD, SPARKS

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

4/2001

MD SHPO

SPRINGHOUSE

3 of 4



BA-0374

707 E BELFAST ROAD, SPARKS

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

4/2001

MD SHPO

OUTBUILDINGS

4 of 4

BA-374

CARROLL HOUSE - 1797 - South side of Belfast Road, 0.3 mile west of York Road. Levi Price built this house and it was shown as that of another Levi Price in the 1877 atlas; it was George W. Mouth's in 1898 atlas (spelled Muth in 1896 tax ledger). It was later part of Harry Fahnestock's Halten Farm, and shown as his in 1915 atlas. Purchased in 1936 by Mr. and Mrs. Curtis Carroll, who restored and enlarged it. Small, two-story house, now expended to a three-part telescope design. Main block is three bays of stone with gable roof and one end-chimney. Small porches. Third segment is a garage. Fully described with pre-restoration photo in Sun Magazine, September 16, 1973. Vernacular style. Owners: Mr. and Mrs. Curtis Carroll.